

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 3, 15, 16, 17, 22 and 32-34 without prejudice and amend claims 1, 4, 7, 14, 18, 19 and 24 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An upright vacuum cleaner, comprising:
 - a floor nozzle having a suction inlet;
 - a handle;
 - a housing having a first portion connected to said floor nozzle and a
 - 5 second portion connected to said handle, the housing defining a cavity and at least one chamber;
 - a dirt cup assembly releasably connected to said housing and at least partially received by said cavity, said dirt cup assembly defining a cyclonic airflow chamber and including a wall;
 - 10 an inlet duct defined on said dirt cup assembly wall;
 - a filter assembly removably positioned in said dirt cup assembly,
 - wherein said filter assembly includes a top wall which cooperates with at least one wall of said dirt cup assembly to seal at least a portion of said cyclonic airflow chamber; and
 - 15 a motor assembly disposed in said at least one chamber defined by said housing.

2. (Original) The upright vacuum cleaner of claim 1, wherein said filter assembly comprises a filter cage and a filter media mounted on said filter cage.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) The upright vacuum cleaner of claim 2 1,

wherein said filter assembly is concentrically positioned in said dirt cup assembly.

5. (Original) The upright vacuum cleaner of claim 4, wherein said dirt cup assembly comprises a support connected to a base wall, and wherein said filter assembly is mounted on said support.

6. (Original) The upright vacuum cleaner of claim 1, further comprising a latch assembly for selectively securing said dirt cup assembly to said housing.

7. (Currently Amended) The upright vacuum cleaner of claim 1, further comprising a ducting system located within said floor nozzle and said housing for fluidically connecting said suction inlet to said dirt cup inlet duct, whereby air is drawn in through said suction inlet, ~~drawn through a pivot tube in said floor nozzle, a~~
5 ~~conduit in said housing,~~ through said dirt cup inlet duct and cyclonically filtered in said dirt cup assembly and expelled through an opening in ~~a base of said dirt cup assembly~~.
assembly.

8. (Original) A stick vacuum cleaner, comprising:
a floor nozzle having a suction inlet;
a housing connected to said floor nozzle, the housing having a front panel and a rear panel, said housing including a cavity and at least one chamber
5 spaced therefrom;
said front panel of said housing defining a first aperture that opens into said cavity;
said rear panel of said housing defining a second aperture that opens

into said cavity, wherein said second aperture is smaller than said first aperture;

10 a dirt cup releasably mounted to said housing and at least partially
received in said cavity, wherein the dirt cup extends into said first aperture and into
said second aperture when mounted on said housing, said dirt cup being removable
from said housing in a frontal direction; and

 a motor assembly disposed in said at least one chamber defined by
15 said housing.

9. (Original) The stick vacuum cleaner of claim 8, wherein said dirt
cup comprises:

 a front wall;

 a rear wall;

5 a first side wall extending between said front and rear walls;

 a second side wall extending between said front and rear walls;

 a pair of wings extending respectively past said first and said second
side walls adjacent said front wall, whereby at least a portion of said front wall
remains substantially flush with said front portion of said housing when said dirt cup
10 is mounted on said housing in a use position.

10. (Original) The stick vacuum cleaner of claim 8, wherein said dirt
cup rear wall defines a contoured portion; and

 said housing second aperture cooperates with said contoured portion
of said dirt cup when the dirt cup is mounted on said housing in a use position.

11. (Original) The stick vacuum cleaner of claim 8, wherein said dirt
cup comprises a tangential inlet so that said dirt cup defines a cyclonic airflow

chamber.

12. (Original) The stick vacuum cleaner of claim 11, further comprising a removable filter assembly positioned in said cyclonic airflow chamber.

13. (Original) The stick vacuum cleaner of claim 8, further comprising a latch assembly for selectively securing said dirt cup to said housing.

14. (Currently Amended) A stick vacuum cleaner, comprising:

a floor nozzle having a suction inlet;

a main handle;

5 a housing having a first portion connected to said floor nozzle and a second portion connected to said main handle, the housing defining a cavity and at least one chamber;

a dirt cup releasably connected to said housing and at least partially received by said cavity, wherein the dirt cup is movable in relation to said housing from a use position to an emptying position;

10 ~~a dirt cup handle connected to said dirt cup assembly and spaced from said main handle, wherein the stick vacuum cleaner may be lifted by the dirt cup handle when the dirt cup is in the use position; wherein said dirt cup includes a~~
tangential inlet so that said dirt cup defines a cyclonic airflow chamber;

a removable filter assembly located in said cyclonic airflow chamber;

15 wherein said dirt cup includes a base that defines an exhaust duct, and wherein said filter assembly and said exhaust duct are axially aligned; and

a motor assembly disposed in said at least one chamber defined by said housing.

15-17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) The stick vacuum cleaner of claim 14, wherein said filter assembly comprises a primary filter and further comprising a secondary filter mounted in said housing between said dirt cup and said motor assembly.

19. (Currently Amended) A stick vacuum cleaner, comprising:

a floor nozzle having a suction inlet;

a housing connected to said floor nozzle;

a dirt cup assembly releasably connected to said housing;

5 said dirt cup assembly including a base and walls which cooperate to define a cavity;

an inlet duct located on one of said base and walls of said dirt cup assembly;

10 a filter support element mounted on one of said base and walls of said dirt cup assembly; and

a filter selectively mounted on said filter support element;

a motor mounted to said housing; and

a secondary filter, wherein said secondary filter is mounted in said housing between said dirt cup assembly and said motor.

20. (Original) The stick vacuum cleaner of claim 19, wherein said filter support element is an integrally molded component of said dirt cup base.

21. (Original) The stick vacuum cleaner of claim 19, wherein said filter support element is an independent component connected to said dirt cup base.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Original) The stick vacuum cleaner of claim 19, wherein said dirt cup base defines an exhaust duct, and wherein said filter support element surrounds said exhaust duct and extends into said cavity.

24. (Currently Amended) The stick vacuum cleaner of claim 23;
~~further comprising a motor/fan assembly having an inlet; and~~
wherein said exhaust duct and an inlet of said motor/fan assembly inlet
are aligned along a longitudinal axis.

25. (Original) The stick vacuum cleaner of claim 19, wherein said filter comprises a filter cage and a bottom support connected to a distal end of said filter cage, and wherein said bottom support cooperates with said filter support element to selectively mount said filter to said dirt cup assembly.

26. (Original) The stick vacuum cleaner of claim 25, wherein at least one of said bottom support and said filter support element includes a sealing member, whereby a seal is formed between said bottom support and said filter support element by said sealing member.

27. (Original) A stick vacuum cleaner, comprising:
a floor nozzle having a suction inlet;

a housing connected to said floor nozzle, the housing defining a cavity and at least one chamber;

5 a dirt cup assembly releasably connected to said housing and at least partially received by said housing cavity, wherein said dirt cup assembly includes a front wall, a rear wall, a first side wall, a second side wall and a base wall, said walls being interconnected to define a dirt cup cavity;

a filter assembly mounted in said dirt cup cavity, said filter assembly
10 including a top wall;

a gasket extending away from an upper surface of said filter assembly top wall;

a skirt extending away from a lower surface of said filter assembly top wall in a manner offset from said gasket, wherein at least one of said walls of said
15 dirt cup assembly includes an upper portion having a projection, and wherein said filter assembly top wall, said gasket and said skirt cooperate with said dirt cup wall projection to form a labyrinth seal; and

a motor assembly disposed in said at least one chamber defined by said housing.

28. (Original) The stick vacuum cleaner of claim 27, wherein said labyrinth seal encloses at least a portion of said dirt cup cavity.

29. (Original) The stick vacuum cleaner of claim 27, wherein the filter assembly is removably mounted in said dirt cup cavity.

30. (Original) The stick vacuum cleaner of claim 27, wherein said filter assembly is concentrically positioned in said dirt cup cavity.

31. (Original) The stick vacuum cleaner of claim 27, wherein said dirt cup base wall defines an exhaust duct, and wherein said filter assembly and said exhaust duct are aligned.

32 - 34. (Cancelled)

35. (Original) An upright vacuum cleaner, comprising:
a housing comprising a floor nozzle and defining a first cavity and at least one chamber;

5 a dirt cup releasably connected to said housing and at least partially received in said first cavity, said dirt cup defining a second cavity;
said dirt cup including a conversion port for above-the-floor cleaning;
and
a motor assembly disposed in said at least one chamber defined by said housing.

36. (Original) The upright vacuum cleaner of claim 35, wherein said dirt cup includes an inlet duct and said conversion port is defined in said inlet duct.

37. (Original) The upright vacuum cleaner of claim 36, wherein said inlet duct is located on a front wall of said dirt cup.

38. (Original) The upright vacuum cleaner of claim 35, wherein said conversion port is defined in a rear wall of said dirt cup.

39. (Original) The upright vacuum cleaner of claim 35, wherein said dirt cup includes a tangential inlet so that said second cavity functions as a cyclonic airflow chamber.

40. (Original) The upright vacuum cleaner of claim 35, further comprising:

a hose including a conversion adapter having a distal end;

5 said conversion adapter engaging said conversion port in an above-the-floor cleaning mode, whereby the distal end of said adapter is in fluid communication with said second cavity.

41. (Original) The upright vacuum cleaner of claim 40, wherein said adapter includes a shoulder having a larger circumference than is a circumference of an orifice defined by said conversion port.

42. (Original) The upright vacuum cleaner of claim 40, further comprising a door disposed on said conversion port, whereby in a floor cleaning mode said door substantially seals an orifice defined by said conversion port.

43. (Original) The upright vacuum cleaner of claim 42, wherein said door is pivotable about a hinge.

44. (New) The upright vacuum cleaner of claim 1 wherein said filter assembly top wall comprises a handle.

45. (New) The stick vacuum cleaner of claim 14 further comprising

a dirt cup handle connected to said dirt cup assembly and spaced from said main handle, wherein the stick vacuum cleaner may be lifted by the dirt cup handle when the dirt cup is in the use position.

46. (New) The stick vacuum cleaner of claim 14 further comprising a lid selectively closing an open upper end of said dirt cup.

47. (New) The stick vacuum cleaner of claim 46 further comprising a handle positioned on the lid.

48. (New) The stick vacuum cleaner of claim 46 wherein said lid is connected to said filter assembly.

49. (New) A stick vacuum cleaner, comprising:

a floor nozzle having a suction inlet;

a handle assembly pivotally mounted on said floor nozzle, said handle assembly comprising:

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a first portion defining a motor chamber,

a motor assembly located in said motor chamber, and

a second portion defining a socket,

a dirt cup selectively positioned in said socket, said dirt cup including an inlet to a dirt separation chamber, at least partially defined in said dirt cup, and an outlet from said dirt separation chamber, said outlet communicating with said motor assembly; and

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a conversion port defined in a wall of said dirt cup for above-the-floor cleaning.

50. (New) The stick vacuum cleaner of claim 49 further comprising a filter selectively located in said dirt cup, wherein said filter is spaced from said conversion port.

51. (New) The stick vacuum cleaner of claim 50 wherein said dirt cup further comprises a stem extending into said dirt separation chamber, said stem defining said dirt cup outlet, wherein said filter surrounds said stem.

52. (New) The stick vacuum cleaner of claim 49 wherein said conversion port is located on a front wall of said dirt cup.

53. (New) The stick vacuum cleaner of claim 49 wherein said conversion port is located on a rear wall of said dirt cup.